

RECKLESS  
RALPH'S

NOVEMBER 1933

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

OFFICIAL ORGAN HAPPY HOURS BROTHERHOOD

100, Ferndale Road, Clapham, London, S.W.4

Sept. 11, 1933

Dear Ralph Cummings & Boys of America:  
Greetings from BARRY ONO.

Does the name mean anything to more than a few of you? The few are already fast pals, and if they are samples of American collectors, then I can do with a few more. My English chums claim that I have the worlds largest collection of rare Old Boys Journals and English "Penny Dreadfuls", but that is a tall order, and I don't claim it myself. Still I suppose something about from 6,000 to 7,000 can be called a LARGE collection, and certain it is, that I possess some hundreds unknown to the British Museum, and other museums of the English speaking world. I want any American enthusiast who comes to my old country, to give me a call, and spend a few hours with my collection. Remember, I am a collector, FIRST, and only a dealer when it comes to the hundreds of duplicates I have to buy to get rarities, so leave your bank roll at the hotel when you come to see me, as you couldn't buy one of the Barry Ono collection at ANY price.

I suppose the forerunner of the first "Penny Dreadfuls" were our old Chap Books, of from 1780 to 1830. Then came Edward Lloyd, of whose publications I have some 200 odd. From 1840 to about 1860 these had an enormous vogue. The real plums among these are "Gentleman Jack, or Life on the Road", "Claude Duval, the Ladies Highwayman". Both of these ran for over 200 nps. "Paul Clifford, or Hurrah! for the Road", "Varney, the Vampire, or the Feast  
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of Blood", etc. etc. These contain the quaintest and most primitive of the old wood cuts. Then came the "Newsagent's Pub. Co." about 1850 to 1868. These are far and away the most lurid, the most scarce, and the heart's desire of the epicure collector. Hast thou a copy of "The Wild Boys of London"? If so, stick to it like glue, for you will never repeat it. But, Oh Boy! have you a clean copy of "May Turpin, or Life on the Road". Tell me so and I will travel all the way to America and burgle you.

You've all heard of the longest romance in the English language, and I have supplied American friends with fine copies--"Black Bess, or the Knight of the Road" which ran for 254 penny nos. non-stop, and over 1,000 chapters. Then it had a sequel "The Black Highwayman". Both well written and finely illustrated, date 1868... Then our Boys Journal. Have you any? Some of you may possess a few vols. of the Boys of England and The Young Men of Great Britain, which are only semi-scarce. But how many of you have runs of The Boys Standard and Boys Leisure Hour? These were more of the robust and full blooded Highwayman and Pirate type, and the illustrations are a veritable joy. Then those Great Auk's Eggs, The Sons of Britannia, Young Englishman, Young Briton, Sons of Albion, Rover's Log, etc. of the family of Geo. Emmett and his brothers.

Come we to the well, nigh extinct; Chas. Fox publications. Spring Heeled Jack, Sweeney Todd, Turnpike Dick, and the immortal Handsome Harry and Ching-Ching series.

I would like to ask some of you American fans of the old Beadle & Adams, Diamond Dick and Nick Carter publications, to give a few of our English things a try out. Of course with our quite rightly national and patriotic pride, we are prone to think OURS must be the best, well-Let it go at that.



I'm quite willing to act as English scout for any of your items but they are rarely found over here.

I remember as a youth, your "Diamond Dick" came over in ship loads as "remainders" and were sold on stalls. I started trying to make up sets, but could never do it, but don't I wish I had stuck to those I did get.. Still, I do get American items sometimes, which I'd gladly swap for Sweeney Todd or Spring Heeled Jack, Etc. I think a more general "Hands Across the Sea" movement would be all to the good, so here is where England's reputed biggest collector hands you the cordial "mitt" and would like to know a few of you interested more especially in English "bloods" and old Boys Journals.

A little less exclusiveness and a little more cameraderie, would be all to the good of a jolly hobby we want to keep alive.

Fraternally yours, BARRY ONO.

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FOREIGN NOVELS.

By Robert H. Smeltzer.

It may be of interest to some of our brother collectors, to know that dime novels have been printed in foreign languages.

For instance in French, Texas Jack, la Terreur des Indiens (The Terror of the Indians); size  $6\frac{1}{2}$  x 9; two Italian novels, similar in makeup to Buffalo Bill Stories; Kenton King, il Bandito (the bandit) and L'Alleato Sconosciuto. The title on the cover, strange to say is in English, Buffalo Bill's Unknown Ally; six German novels,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  x 6, Robinson Crusoe, Wilhelm Tell, Der Schwarze Jack (Black Jack), Matafa der Condor, Auf Dem Rio Gila (Auf Dem meaning "On the"), and Abentouer in den Felsengebirgen (Adventure in the Rocky Mountains).

While I cannot enjoy reading these attractive looking colored novels, still I am glad to own them; mute evidence that the boys of



of other lands reveled in just the same sort of thrilling tales as the American youth of years ago, aye, even now.

Wm. Hand, of Middleton, Pa., died Aug. 28th, aged 45, from a stroke. He had a stroke about a year ago, paralyzing his right side. He was a Novel Dealer, except a few he kept himself, but later resold as he needed the money. Another brother gone to the Great Beyond, from which there is no return.

Samuel Nathan has again moved. He is now at 351 Central Ave., East Orange, N.J.

Robert Burns has also changed his address to Box 15, Dundalk, Md.

One of our members under the name of the Book Exchange, Sta. A-Box 12, Toledo, O., has been very sick for the past five weeks, and it will be a while before he can get around again. We all pray for your quick recovery, Pard.

Wm. J. Benners, a brother member, bought out the Frank Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly, Young American, and Boys of America, in 1902, for \$1000. Bill was up to see Reckless Ralph a few days ago. Also member George French, who beat Bill by 2 or three days.

Brother Ralph F. Adimave is now writing for the American Book Collector, Metuchen, N.J. - Ballou, the Father of the Dime Novel - will appear in the Sept. - Oct. number. Better get your copy now. \$1.00. An article on Beadle will appear later.

An article by Charles Bragin on "Pluck & Luck" will appear in the December issue.

The Illustrated Police News - May 3, 1879, lists the Richmond Novels, Nos. 1 to 99, including #25 - Captain Jack, or, Heroes of the Moduc War, in which Capt. Randall describes the Moduc, their stronghold, and causes of the war.

--Bob Smeitzer.

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(Without Ads).